

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system including a
5 server computer system coupled to a plurality of
heterogeneous client computer systems via a network for
automatically installing a device driver on said
plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems,
wherein each of said heterogeneous client computer
10 systems executes a different one of a plurality of
operating systems, said method comprising the steps of:
specifying said plurality of heterogeneous client
computer systems to receive said device driver;
storing a plurality of different versions of said
15 device driver in said server computer system, wherein
each one of said plurality of different versions is
executable by only a different one of said plurality of
operating systems;
copying one of said plurality of different versions
20 of said device driver to one of said plurality of client
computer systems which is executing one of said plurality
of different operating systems, wherein said one of said
plurality of different versions of said device driver is
executable by said one of said plurality of different
25 operating systems; and
said server computer system causing said one of said
plurality of client computer systems to install said one
of said plurality of different versions of said device
driver.
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2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
the step of creating a file including a plurality of
entries, each one of said plurality of entries specifying

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a different one of said plurality of client computer systems, one of said plurality of different operating systems, and a network address of said one of said plurality of client computer systems.

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3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of distributing said plurality of versions of said device driver to said plurality of client computer systems utilizing said file.

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4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of distributing said plurality of versions of said device driver further comprises the steps of:

getting a first entry from said file utilizing said
15 server computer system;

determining a first one of said plurality of operating systems included in said first entry utilizing said server computer system;

determining a network address for a first one of
20 said plurality of client computer systems included in said first entry utilizing said server computer system;

retrieving a first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver utilizing said server computer system, wherein said first one of said
25 plurality of different versions of said device driver is executable by said first one of said plurality of operating systems; and

copying said first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to said first
30 one of said plurality of client computer systems at said network address utilizing said server computer system.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising

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the steps of:

said server computer system determining a directory location within said one of said plurality of client computer systems to which to copy said one of said

5 plurality of different versions; and

storing said one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver in said directory location within said one of said plurality of client computer systems.

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6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of said server computer system causing said one of said plurality of client computer systems to execute an installation command to install said one of said

15 plurality of different versions of said device driver.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

getting a second entry from said file utilizing said
20 server computer system;

determining a second one of said plurality of operating systems included in said second entry utilizing said server computer system;

determining a network address for a second one of
25 said plurality of client computer systems included in said second entry utilizing said server computer system;

retrieving a second one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver utilizing said server computer system, wherein said second one of said
30 plurality of different versions of said device driver is executable by said second one of said plurality of operating systems; and

copying said second one of said plurality of

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different versions of said device driver to said second one of said plurality of client computer systems at said network address utilizing said server computer system.

- 5 8. A data processing system including a server computer system coupled to a plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems via a network for automatically installing a device driver on said plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems, wherein each of
- 10 said heterogeneous client computer systems executes a different one of a plurality of operating systems, comprising:

means for specifying said plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems to receive said device driver;

- 15 means for storing a plurality of different versions of said device driver in said server computer system, wherein each one of said plurality of different versions is executable by only a different one of said plurality of operating systems;

- 20 means for copying one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to one of said plurality of client computer systems which is executing one of said plurality of different operating systems, wherein said one of said plurality of different versions of said
- 25 device driver is executable by said one of said plurality of different operating systems; and

- means for said server computer system causing said one of said plurality of client computer systems to install said one of said plurality of different versions
- 30 of said device driver.

9. The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
means for creating a file including a plurality of

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entries, each one of said plurality of entries specifying a different one of said plurality of client computer systems, one of said plurality of different operating systems, and a network address of said one of said plurality of client computer systems.

10. The system according to claim 9, further comprising means for distributing said plurality of versions of said device driver to said plurality of client computer systems utilizing said file.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein said means for distributing said plurality of versions of said device driver further comprises:

means for getting a first entry from said file utilizing said server computer system;

means for determining a first one of said plurality of operating systems included in said first entry utilizing said server computer system;

means for determining a network address for a first one of said plurality of client computer systems included in said first entry utilizing said server computer system;

means for retrieving a first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver utilizing said server computer system, wherein said first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver is executable by said first one of said plurality of operating systems; and

means for copying said first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to said first one of said plurality of client computer systems at said network address utilizing said server computer system.

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12. The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

means for said server computer system determining a
5 directory location within said one of said plurality of
client computer systems to which to copy said one of said
plurality of different versions; and

means for storing said one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver in said directory location within said one of said plurality of client computer systems.

13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising means for said server computer system causing said one of said plurality of client computer systems to execute an installation command to install said one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver.

14. The system according to claim 13, further
20 comprising:

means for getting a second entry from said file
utilizing said server computer system;

means for determining a second one of said plurality
of operating systems included in said second entry
25 utilizing said server computer system;

means for determining a network address for a second one of said plurality of client computer systems included in said second entry utilizing said server computer system;

30 means for retrieving a second one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver utilizing said server computer system, wherein said second one of said plurality of different versions of said device

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driver is executable by said second one of said plurality of operating systems; and

means for copying said second one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to said
5 second one of said plurality of client computer systems at said network address utilizing said server computer system.

15. A computer readable media including a server
10 computer system coupled to a plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems via a network for automatically installing a device driver on said plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems, wherein each of said heterogeneous client computer systems executes a
15 different one of a plurality of operating systems, said computer readable media comprising:

instruction means for specifying said plurality of heterogeneous client computer systems to receive said device driver;

20 instruction means for storing a plurality of different versions of said device driver in said server computer system, wherein each one of said plurality of different versions is executable by only a different one of said plurality of operating systems;

25 instruction means for copying one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to one of said plurality of client computer systems which is executing one of said plurality of different operating systems, wherein said one of said plurality of different
30 versions of said device driver is executable by said one of said plurality of different operating systems; and

instruction means for said server computer system causing said one of said plurality of client computer

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systems to install said one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver.

16. The computer readable media according to claim 15,
5 further comprising:

instruction means for creating a file including a plurality of entries, each one of said plurality of entries specifying a different one of said plurality of client computer systems, one of said plurality of
10 different operating systems, and a network address of said one of said plurality of client computer systems.

17. The computer readable media according to claim 16,
15 further comprising instruction means for distributing said plurality of versions of said device driver to said plurality of client computer systems utilizing said file.

18. The computer readable media according to claim 17,
20 wherein said instruction means for distributing said plurality of versions of said device driver further comprises:

instruction means for getting a first entry from said file utilizing said server computer system;

- instruction means for determining a first one of
25 said plurality of operating systems included in said first entry utilizing said server computer system;

instruction means for determining a network address for a first one of said plurality of client computer systems included in said first entry utilizing said
30 server computer system;

instruction means for retrieving a first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver utilizing said server computer system, wherein said first

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one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver is executable by said first one of said plurality of operating systems; and

instruction means for copying said first one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to said first one of said plurality of client computer systems at said network address utilizing said server computer system.

19. The computer readable media according to claim 18, further comprising:

instruction means for said server computer system determining a directory location within said one of said plurality of client computer systems to which to copy said one of said plurality of different versions; and

instruction means for storing said one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver in said directory location within said one of said plurality of client computer systems.

20. The computer readable media according to claim 19, further comprising instruction means for said server computer system causing said one of said plurality of client computer systems to execute an installation command to install said one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver.

21. The computer readable media according to claim 20, further comprising:

instruction means for getting a second entry from said file utilizing said server computer system;

instruction means for determining a second one of said plurality of operating systems included in said

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second entry utilizing said server computer system;

instruction means for determining a network address for a second one of said plurality of client computer systems included in said second entry utilizing said

5 server computer system;

instruction means for retrieving a second one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver utilizing said server computer system, wherein

10 said second one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver is executable by said second one of said plurality of operating systems; and

instruction means for copying said second one of said plurality of different versions of said device driver to said second one of said plurality of client
15 computer systems at said network address utilizing said server computer system.

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